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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY REVIEW

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#### NEW COMMUNIST ATTEMPTS TO DOMINATE CUBAN LABOR

The Communists are likely to increase their influence in the large and politically powerful Cuban Workers' Confederation (CTC) during its national congress from 18 to 21 November. Although the revolutionary 26th of July Movement claims sweeping victories, Communists are believed to have gained substantial representation among

the 3,000 delegates elected to the congress by local unions on 8 November. Their efforts to infiltrate the CTC will be facilitated by the actions of extremists who now virtually control the Cuban Government. The CTC has long dominated the Cuban labor movement, considered one of the strongest and best organized in Latin America.

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Communists controlled the CTC in the mid-1940s during the first Batista regime but were ousted in 1947.

Raul Castro, considered leader of the extremists in the government, is reliably reported to have ordered the expulsion of five non-Communists from the CTC directorate, probably during the congress. They evidently refused to agree automatically with government actions they disapproved. The new labor minister, Augusto Martinez Sanchez, who is closely identified with Raul, has already suggested that he will not give non-Communists the tacit government support which, early in the Castro regime, enabled 26th of July labor leaders to resist Cuban Communist party (PSP) efforts to dominate the CTC.

The labor minister's influence and the PSP strategy of discrediting individual anti-Communist leaders while not challenging labor officials who do not openly oppose Communist efforts will give the PSP mi-

nority in the labor movement a disproportionate behind-the-scenes voice in the election of national CTC leaders during the congress.

Two of the men opposed by Raul are Catholic labor leaders. Officials of the Catholic Christian Workers' Union (UTC) recently agreed with other church leaders that the Cuban Government now is being run by Communists and that it controls the entire economy. UTC officials hope to thwart Communist activities at the labor congress, but probably are not sufficiently strong and well organized to be effective.

Other reportedly non-Communist labor leaders like Conrado Becquer of the Sugar Workers' Federation, Cuba's most powerful labor group, may have decided that they must go along with the Castro government or be ousted. Becquer, for example, is already organizing the workers' militia originally recommended by the Communist party and endorsed by Fidel Castro on 26 October.